

Appln No. 10/773,183
Amdt. Dated August 28, 2006
Response to Office Action of July 6, 2006

10

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of July 6, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claims 1, 19 and 38 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of pending claims 7 and 26 that the heater element is in the form of a cantilever beam. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 20, lines 17-20 and page 36, lines 11-25 of the present specification;

dependent claims 7 and 26 are cancelled accordingly; and

dependent claims 2-6, 8-18, 20-22, 24, 25, 27, 29-37, 39-44 and 46-54 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-discussed amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38, and claims 2-6, 8-18, 20-22, 24, 25, 27, 29-37, 39-44 and 46-54 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by any one or more of previously cited Moon, Silverbrook, Anagnostopoulos and Campbell in view of newly cited De Moor et al., for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38, forming the heater element 10 as a cantilever beam minimizes the amount of direct contact between the heater element and the nozzle, which, coupled with the small size of the solid material heated in the heater elements, provides a very efficient printhead (see page 20, lines 17-20 and page 36, lines 11-25 of the present specification).

On the other hand, none of Moon, Silverbrook, Anagnostopoulos, Campbell and De Moor teach or suggest such an arrangement. In particular, the Examiner has rejected pending dependent claims 7 and 26, which recite this arrangement, over Anagnostopoulos citing the TiN heater of Fig. 5. However, it is clear that the view of the TiN heater illustrated in Fig. 5 of Anagnostopoulos (as well as the other similar figures) is merely a cross-sectional view of the looped TiN heater which are illustrated in plan view in Figs. 1A-1F (see col. 5, line 41-col. 6, line 9 of Anagnostopoulos). Thus, like Moon, Silverbrook, Campbell and De Moor, the disclosure of Anagnostopoulos does not teach or suggest the arrangement of amended independent claims 1, 19 and 38.

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11

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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